

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 6, 8-11 and 14-19 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1-21 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment

Support for the amendments to claims 1-21 can be found in the specification, for example, in Figs. 2A, 2B and 5 and at paragraphs [0043] and [0044]. Thus, no new matter is added is added.

II. Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Breval and Bumsuk in the July 2, 2010 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1-4, 7, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,616,987 to Ohmura et al. (Ohmura). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "the first dynode having a first end face and a second end face opposite the first end face, the first end face and the second end face extending perpendicularly to the prescribed direction and the second dynode having a first end and a second end" and "the potential regulating means including a first regulating element and a second regulating element that is separate from the first regulating element, the first regulating element being located between the first end face of the first dynode and the first end of the second dynode in a direction perpendicular to the prescribed direction and the second regulating element being located between the second end face of the first dynode and

the second end of the second dynode in the direction perpendicular to the prescribed direction." The applied reference fails to teach or render obvious the recited features of independent claim 1.

As agreed to during the interview, Ohmura fails to teach or render obvious the above quoted feature of independent claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable at least due to their dependence on allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Vishnu V. Ramaswamy
Registration No. 66,739

JAO:VVR/eks

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 19, 2010

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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